Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

an application service provider server, said application service provider server including a storage device;

a candidate enterprise terminal, said candidate enterprise terminal connected to said application service provider server by a communication network, said candidate enterprise terminal being configured to transmit at least non-public business information to said application service provider server, said non-public business information including at least non-public financial, accounting, and tax information of a candidate enterprise, said application service provider server being configured to store said non-public business information in said storage device; and

a merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal, said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal connected to said application service provider server by said communication network, said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal being configured to obtain said non-public business information from said application service provider server, said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal being further configured to generate a merger or acquisition proposal based on said non-public business information, said merger or acquisition proposal being a proposal that specifies terms for a merger or an acquisition related to said candidate enterprise.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, further comprising:

a second candidate enterprise terminal, said second candidate enterprise terminal connected to said application service provider server by said communication network, said second candidate enterprise terminal being configured to transmit at least second non-public business information to said application service provider server, said second non-public

business information including at least non-public financial, accounting, and tax information of a second candidate enterprise, said application service provider server being configured to store said second non-public business information in said storage device;

wherein said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal is further configured to obtain said second non-public business information from said application service provider server; and

wherein said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal is further configured to generate said merger or acquisition proposal based on said non-public business information and based on said second non-public business information, said merger or acquisition proposal being a particular proposal that specifies terms for a particular merger or a particular acquisition between said candidate enterprise and said second candidate enterprise.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10,

wherein said candidate enterprise terminal is configured to transmit updated non-public business information to said application service provider server at specified times.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10,

wherein said communication network is the Internet.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10,

wherein said application service provider server comprises a computer;

wherein said candidate enterprise terminal comprises a computer; and

wherein said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal comprises a computer.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10,

wherein said non-public business information has not been made public.

16. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

sending at least non-public business information from a candidate enterprise terminal to an application service provider server over a communication network, said non-public business information including at least non-public financial, accounting, and tax information of a candidate enterprise;

storing, by said application service provider server, said non-public business information;

sending said non-public business information from said application service provider server to a merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal over said communication network in response to a request from said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal; and

generating, by said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal, a merger or acquisition proposal based on said non-public business information, said merger or acquisition proposal being a proposal that specifies terms for a merger or an acquisition related to said candidate enterprise.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

sending said merger or acquisition proposal from said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal to said candidate enterprise terminal.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

sending at least second non-public business information from a second candidate enterprise terminal to said application service provider server over said communication network, said second non-public business information including at least non-public financial, accounting, and tax information of a second candidate enterprise;

storing, by said application service provider server, said second non-public business information;

sending said second non-public business information from said application service provider server to said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal over said communication network in response to a second request from said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal; and

-4-

generating, by said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal, a second merger or acquisition proposal based on said second non-public business information, said second merger or acquisition proposal being a second proposal that specifies terms for a second merger or a second acquisition related to said second candidate enterprise.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said step of sending at least non-public business information from a candidate enterprise terminal to an application service provider server over a communication network, comprises:

    periodically sending non-public business information from a candidate enterprise terminal to an application service provider server over a communication network, said non-public business information including at least non-public financial, accounting, and tax information of a candidate enterprise.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16,

    wherein said communication network is the Internet.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16,

    wherein said application service provider server comprises a computer;

    wherein said candidate enterprise terminal comprises a computer; and

    wherein said merger and acquisition brokering business entity terminal comprises a computer.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16,

    wherein said non-public business information has not been made public.

23. (Previously Presented) A storage medium storing a program for causing a merger and acquisition brokering business entity computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

    sending a request for non-public business information to an application service provider server over a communication network;

    receiving said non-public business information from said application service provider server that is transmitted over said communication network in response to said request, said

non-public business information including at least non-public financial, accounting, and tax information of a candidate enterprise, said non-public business information having been provided to said application service provider server by a candidate enterprise terminal; and

generating a merger or acquisition proposal based on said non-public business information, said merger or acquisition proposal being a proposal that specifies terms for a merger or an acquisition related to said candidate enterprise.

24. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 23, said process further comprising:

sending a second request for non-public business information to said application service provider server over said communication network;

receiving said second non-public business information from said application service provider server that is transmitted over said communication network in response to said second request, said second non-public business information including at least non-public financial, accounting, and tax information of a second candidate enterprise, said non-public business information having been provided to said application service provider server by a second candidate enterprise terminal; and

generating a second merger or acquisition proposal based on said second non-public business information, said second merger or acquisition proposal being a second proposal that specifies terms for a second merger or a second acquisition related to said second candidate enterprise.

25. (New) The system of claim 10,

wherein the candidate enterprise terminal is configured to transmit data to the application service provider server to update the non-public business information each time the non-public business information is updated at the candidate enterprise terminal, such that the application service provider server maintains a latest version of the non-public business information from the candidate enterprise terminal.

26. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

sending, from the candidate enterprise terminal to the application service provider server over the communication network, data to update the non-public business information

-6-

each time the non-public business information is updated at the candidate enterprise terminal, such that the application service provider server maintains a latest version of the non-public business information from the candidate enterprise terminal.